

February 5, 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
C/O Commission Secretary, Marlene H. Dortch  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Proceeding 03-16**

Dear Commissioners:

Please accept this letter as my formal support of SBC's entry into long distance in Michigan. Michigan's citizens deserve full telecommunications competition and SBC should be allowed to compete fairly for all customers.

My experience as a State Representative and in particular as the ranking Democrat on the House Energy and Technology committee for six years has afforded me the opportunity to hear what the people of Michigan expect from their telephone service. Consumers want more choices, competitive rates and the power to choose one company for all of their telecommunications needs. They already have competitive rates and choices for local service. It's time to bring the same benefits to the long distance market.

SBC should be congratulated on its' efforts to work towards a truly competitive telecommunications market in Michigan. SBC has worked diligently and in good faith on key issues such as interconnection agreement with local exchange carriers, resale of its' retail services, number portability, timely access to physical infrastructure for competitors, and 911 and directory assistance. All of these issues are important in ensuring that there is fair and open competition for Michigan's telecommunications market.

I look forward to your 271 application approval. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in your efforts.

Sincerely,

**Samuel Buzz Thomas**  
Senator, 4<sup>th</sup> District